

In the Claims:

- 1 1. *(currently amended)* A lighting system for conducting an electrical current,
2 comprising:
3 a) a base ~~having at least one aperture;~~
4 ~~a low voltage transformer disposed within said base and electrically~~
5 ~~connected with an AC power source;~~
6 b) a voltage supply contact ~~electrically connected to said low voltage~~
7 ~~transformer and~~ disposed in ~~said~~ at least one aperture of said
8 base;
9 c) at least one vertical support ~~frictionally~~ engaging said base ~~at said~~
10 ~~at least one aperture;~~
11 wherein an inner circumference of said at least one vertical support is
12 lined with ~~longitudinal~~ current carrying conductors that engage said
13 voltage supply contact when said at least one vertical support
14 engages said base, ~~and;~~
15 ~~wherein said at least one vertical support has a plurality of~~
16 ~~apertures around its circumference;~~ and
17 d) a plurality of ~~pairs of~~ current carrying rods ~~that frictionally engage~~
18 ~~engaging~~ said at least one vertical support ~~at said plurality of~~
19 ~~apertures~~ and having electrical contacts ~~that contact~~ contacting
20 said ~~longitudinal~~ current carrying conductors; ~~wherein said system~~
21 ~~provides so as to provide~~ a ~~low voltage~~ current through said current
22 carrying rods for ~~the~~ engagement of electrical ornaments.

1 2. *(currently amended)* The lighting system according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a plurality of ornaments having resilient clasps, with a pair of
3 separately disposed electrical contacts on both sides of said clasp, ~~for~~
4 **frictionally** engaging said current carrying rods and electrically connecting
5 said current carrying rods to said electrical contacts **and of** said ornament.

1 3. *(currently amended)* The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said
2 at least one vertical support has an additional voltage supply contact at a top
3 end **thereof that connects** ~~for connection~~ to **longitudinal** current carrying
4 conductors of additional vertical supports.

1 4. *(currently amended)* The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein a top
2 end of a highest said at least one vertical support has an aperture for a plug
3 **and which is** electrically coupled to said **longitudinal** current carrying
4 conductors.

1 5. *(currently amended)* The lighting system according to claim 2, wherein said
2 plurality ~~of pairs~~ of current carrying rods are each surrounded with insulation.

1 6. *(currently amended)* The lighting system according to claim 5, wherein said
2 electrical contacts of said plurality of ornaments pierce said insulation of said
3 plurality ~~of pairs~~ of current carrying rods.

- 1 7. *(currently amended)* The lighting system according to claim 2, further
2 comprising artificial pine needles being twisted between said plurality **of**
3 **pairs** of current carrying rods.
- 1 8. *(currently amended)* The lighting system according to claim 7, wherein at
2 least one of said artificial pine needles projects into an aperture between said
3 electrical contacts of said ornament when said ornament is in connection with
4 said **pair-of** current carrying rods.
- 1 9. *(original)* The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said base is a
2 tree stand.
- 1 10. *(original)* The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 vertical support is an artificial tree trunk.
- 1 11. *(currently amended)* The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said
2 plurality **of pairs** of current carrying rods are artificial tree branches.
- 1 12. *(new)* The lighting system according to claim 1, further comprising a low
2 voltage transformer being disposed within said base and for electrically
3 connecting with an AC power source.
- 1 13. *(new)* The lighting system according to claim 12, wherein said base has at
2 least one aperture.

- 1 14. (new) The lighting system according to claim 13, wherein said voltage supply
2 contact is electrically connected to said low voltage transformer and disposed
3 in said at least one aperture of said base.
- 1 15. (new) The lighting system according to claim 13, wherein said at least one
2 vertical support frictionally engages said base at said at least one aperture
3 thereof.
- 1 16. (new) The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said current carrying
2 conductors are longitudinal current carrying conductors.
- 1 17. (new) The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 vertical support has a plurality of apertures around its circumference.
- 1 18. (new) The lighting system according to claim 17, wherein said plurality of
2 current carrying rods frictionally engage said at least one vertical support at
3 said plurality of apertures thereof.
- 1 19. (new) The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of
2 current carrying rods are a plurality of pairs of current carrying rods.
- 1 20. (new) A lighting system for conducting an electrical current, comprising:
2 a) a base;
3 b) a voltage supply contact disposed at said base;
4 c) at least one vertical support engaging said base;

5 wherein an inner circumference of said at least one vertical support is
6 lined with current carrying conductors that engage said voltage supply
7 contact when said at least one vertical support engages said base;
8 d) a plurality of current carrying rods engaging said at least one vertical
9 support and having electrical contacts contacting said current carrying
10 conductors so as to provide a current through said current carrying
11 rods for engagement of electrical ornaments; and
12 e) artificial pine needles being twisted between said plurality of current
13 carrying rods.